



Deloitte celebrated their silver jubilee anniversary with a gala event in the Renaissance Fiesta Garden

For twenty-five years, the firm of Deloitte has been providing accounting and business consulting services to the business community of Aruba and the Netherland Antilles. On Saturday evening, August 8, the Aruban and Antillean partners of Deloitte welcomed their clients and associates to an elegant affair conducted under the stars in the Fiesta Gardens of the Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad.

Aruban partners of Deloitte, Marcelino Quant, Maarten van Romndt, and Anthony Croes were joined by senior partners Alex Mollen and Anthony Cijntje from Curacao; personally greeting each arrival, and from the stage Marcelino welcomed the entire gathering.

In celebration of twenty-five years of assisting in the growing prosperity of the region, Deloitte has issued a book titled "Entrepreneurship with Passion-Doing Business on Aruba," which recounts the history of the firm. The book will sell for thirty-five Aruban florins, and all proceeds from the book are to be donated to the Environmental Committee of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA,) a non-profit branch that works towards improvement of Aruba's natural environment. Astrid Muller, General Manager of the Divi Phoenix Resort and President of the committee accepted a book on behalf of the organization during its launching. The funds raised from the book sales have been designated to fund the AHATA Blue Flag Project, a public/private partnership of the AHATA Environmental Committee and the Aruba Coastal Zone Management. Similar to the "Green label" accorded to resorts for their environmental conscientiousness, a "Blue Flag label" is an award for beaches and marinas that maintain water quality, and entails a program of environmental information, education, safety, service and management.

After presenting the book, Maarten van Romndt then took a moment to thank all the loyal customers of Deloitte, and in particular, their dedicated team of associates that have contributed to their success. Freddy Curiel and Donny Bakhuis in Curacao originally founded the firm in July of 1982. Maarten joined in 1984 and opened the Aruba offices, and that same year a branch was opened in Sint Maarten. Donny Bakhuis retired, and Freddy Curiel and Maarten van Romondt, retired from their management role in 2000 to become counselors within the firm, while Lino Quant and Anthony Croes have taken over the helm of the Aruba office.

Deloitte answered a need in the business community twenty-five years ago, as Aruba began a period of extremely rapid commercial growth. They expanded from being simply an accounting office to a full service business-consulting firm, offering educational courses in management, often importing experts such as Dr. Doug Wyles, as guest speakers. Many grateful clients were present for the gala event, and one expressed, "I can't image my business being a success without the assistance of Deloitte."

THE NEWS congratulates the partners of Deloitte on their silver jubilee anniversary and wishes them many more years of successful service to the community.